

Consequently, it seemed to me that the far better thing to do was to arrange to have the charters set the date of election. The Baltimore City revised charter, under which we are operating now, provides for an election in 1967 in November and every four years thereafter.

Consequently, in sponsoring this amendment, I am really sponsoring the same idea which we sought to constitutionalize this morning. I realize that Baltimore City runs a hazard that later the General Assembly may decide to act upon the subject matter and change the date.

However, this is a hazard which all the counties run, and I do not see why we should ask to have any specific exception for Baltimore City. Therefore in the interest of proper constitutional form and because nowhere else in the constitution, so far as I know, does any political subdivision have an exception or is it singled out, I felt it would be far better to go along with the language of this amendment. The language is extremely flexible but it also allows for uniformity in the scheduling of elections which many of the members here would like to have if the General Assembly should so conclude.

It appears to me, therefore, that while this is a compromise, everyone can find within it the grasp of what they consider to be ideal. If we went any further, it appears to me we would be legislating, and I think we should try to avoid this.

I would hope the amendment would pass.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. Although, as with Delegate Schloeder, I felt that what we did this morning was bad, I suggest that this amendment is far worse.

Under what we did this morning, at least Baltimore City would have its elections in the odd-numbered years and would have the benefits which the majority of the Committee wished the entire State to have. Under this proposal, Baltimore City's status is subject to the, I must use the words, whims and vagaries of politics as it is practiced in this building at other times of the year.

I suggest that the Baltimore City delegation, some of whose members complained so mightily a few weeks ago that politics was being practiced in this Convention, and who participated in what I respectfully say is the most arrogant display of politics yet

on the floor of this Convention this morning, will rue the day that they gave the rest of the State the option to decide when Baltimore City holds its elections.

Accordingly, although I very much disagree with what we did this morning, I urge you to vote down this amendment and keep what we did this morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Needle, do you desire to speak in favor of the amendment? You may proceed.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: I desire to offer an amendment to the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is your amendment printed?

DELEGATE NEEDLE: No, it is not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you state it?

DELEGATE NEEDLE: I would strike out the second sentence which runs from the word "unless" in line 10 through the word "officials" in line 14 and insert in lieu thereof the following words: "elections of all county officials shall be held on the same day in the same year as provided by public general law."

THE CHAIRMAN: As the Chair understands it, Delegate Needle, you would like to amend Amendment No. 21 by striking out the sentence beginning in line 10 and ending on line 14 and inserting in lieu thereof a sentence reading, "elections of all county officials shall be held on the same day of the same year as provided by law", is that correct?

DELEGATE NEEDLE: "By public general law".

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment has not been printed.

Is there any objection to considering the amendment at this time

DELEGATE BOYCE: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Boyce objects. The amendment cannot be considered until printed.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: The amendment is written —

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment has to be printed in accordance with the rules and on the desks of the delegates. If you will get somebody working on it right quickly, you can have it printed.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: Can we then suspend consideration of Amendment No. 21 until this is printed?